

Guru Teg Bahadur

Updated Nov 6, 2017

By

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About the Author

Jugraj Kaur's extraordinary career has spanned over three decades and crossed over two continents. During this time, she has worked in the field of television as well as in the area of education. Her career began in the television industry in New Delhi, India, where she worked as a television producer at the start of her professional career. She was responsible for producing educational shows for children which inspired her to begin her long and fulfilling career in education, first in India and then in the United States. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography Honors and Library Science from the University of Delhi and then a Master of Science Degree in Geography as well as in Social Work from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. This allowed her to teach at Mount Carmel High School, a prestigious and well known private establishment in New Delhi for the next ten years, where she taught Geography and was the Head of Social Science Department.

Once immigrating to the U.S., Jugraj Kaur, earned another Master of Science in Special Education from Hunter College, City of New York. She worked for a special needs school in the New York Department of Education for the next 26 years before retiring in 2014. During her rewarding career as an educator for children with severe disabilities, she wore many hats which included serving as a classroom teacher, a crisis intervention specialist, a school unit coordinator, and for the last eight years of her career, as an education coach and mentor to newly hired school staff.

In addition to her rewarding career, Jugraj Kaur, remains extremely involved with many community based organizations dealing with issues of alcohol and drug abuse, as well as child and spousal abuse. She also continues to serve on the Asian Advisory Board of the Queens District Attorney's office and since 2012, has also served as a Gurdwara Convener, and center and zonal judge for the Symposium of Sri Hemkunt Foundation.

Jugraj Kaur currently resides in New York with her businessman husband and is a loving mother to two daughters and three wonderful grandchildren.

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1. Birth and Early Life

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was born in Amritsar on 1st April, 1621. He was the youngest of five sons of Guru Hargobind Ji, the sixth jot of Nanak . His mother's name was Mata Nanaki. When Sikhs learned of his birth, they rushed to congratulate Guru Hargobind Ji. When Guru Hargobind Ji saw his child for the first time, he said, "Of my five sons, he will become the future guru. He will protect the weak and relieve their sorrow and pain." The child was named Tyag Mal. Because of his bravery in the battle of Kartarpur, he earned the name Tegh Bahadur - Mighty of Sword.

In 1628, when Tyag Mal was seven years' old, his brother - Baba Atal Rai passed away. It was a moving experience for Tyag Mal at such an early age. Atal Rai was a tall, healthy young boy. He was adored by people because of his extraordinary supernatural powers. One day, his friend - Mohan - didn't turn up to play. Atal Rai went to his house to inquire. He learned that Mohan had died of a snake bite. Atal Rai touched the dead body and said, "Wake up. It is time to play, dear friend." The boy woke up. The incident - that Atal Rai has raised a dead body - spread in the city like a wildfire. When Guru Hargobind Ji found out, he was not happy and said, "No one should interfere in the Will of God." Atal Rai took Guru Hargobind Ji's message seriously and he willingly gave up his life. At the tender age of seven, Tyag Mal learned that one should let the Will of God prevail. Nine floor high building (the tallest in the city of Amritsar) now stands where Atal Rai was cremated.

Tyag Mal spent first nine years of his childhood with his father and rest of the family at Amritsar. In 1630, he accompanied his father - Guru Hargobind Singh ji - and came to Kartarpur. From childhood, he had a fearless attitude and was nimble in action. Still, he was saintly and had humble insight for all.

As a young boy, he received training of archery and horsemanship from Bhai Buddha ji. Bhai Gurdas ji taught him religious and spiritual philosophy. His father, Guru Hargobind Ji, taught him warfare and swordsmanship.

On September 14, 1632 Tyag Mal was married to Mata Gujari Ji. He was 11 years of age then. His father-in-law was Sri Lal Chand of Kartarpur.

In the year 1635, when Tyag Mal was 13 years old, he accompanied his father to the battlefield. Mughals had started a fight over a hawk. The Mughal Chief Shah Jahan was hunting nearby. His hawk flew and fell in the hands of Sikhs. Sikhs refused to part with the hawk. Mughal Chief sent troops for the hawk, T, as Tyag Mal fought bravely with his sword. After the battle was won, the victorious Sikhs returning home honored their new hero with the title 'Teg Bahadur'. This battle is called Battle of Kartarpur.

Despite exhibiting skills in the battlefield, Tegh Bahadur continued to spend most of his time in seclusion contemplating on Naam and meditation. Tegh Bahadur was kind hearted. Once as a young boy, he was all dressed up in beautiful new clothes for the wedding of his older brother - Gurditta ji. He met a boy almost his age wearing dirty and torn clothes. Tegh Bahadur found the boy looking at him as if desiring the same for himself. Tegh Bahadur was moved by the boy's poverty. He quickly took off his clothes and gave them to the boy. Mata Nanaki asked what had happened to his clothes. He replied, "Mata Ji, I gave them to a boy who needed them more than me."

Death of two leading and respected Sikhs, Bhai Buddha Ji and Bhai Gurdas Ji was a great loss to the Sikhs. Both had been strong protectors of Sikhism for many years. For Teg Bahadur, they had been mentors as well as examples of the Sikh way of life. He revered them just next to Guru ji (his father).

2. Discovery of True Guru

In 1635, after the battle of Kartarpur, Guru Hargobind Ji moved to Kartarpur to spend the rest of his life. In 1638, he lost his oldest son Bhai Gurditta. Guru Hargobind Ji aimed to groom his eldest son - Har Rai - to be the 7th successor of Guru Nanak, which came to fruition in 1644. Shortly after, Guru Hargobind Ji left his corporeal body for his eternal home.

For next 22 years (1644 - 1666), Tegh Bahadur Ji spent most of his time in silent meditation, while examining and heeding to the news of the world from Kirpal Chand and Dwarka Das. He also took a long trip to the east on his mission to spread Guru Nanak's word.

In 1661, Guru Har Rai Ji left the material world for the heavenly abode. His younger son, Har Krishan, became the 8th Nanak. He was just 5 years old when he assumed the leadership. He was gifted in interpreting the Sikh teachings and philosophy with enormous clarity and foresight. It impressed his disciples. On the invitation of Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb, Guru Har Krishan Ji went to Delhi. There he stayed in the bungalow of Raja Jai Singh.

About the same time Tegh Bahadur Ji arrived in Delhi with his mother Mata Nanaki, his wife Mata Gujari and Sikhs from a long trip to east. He went to meet Guru Harkrishan Ji at Raja Jai Singh's house. He did not stay in Delhi and resumed his trip to Bakala.

In 1664, Tegh Bahadur reached Bakala. Sikhs came from every corner to meet him and feel the radiance of his wisdom. Guru Ji went in an underground room and went into deep meditation as the spiritual journey always begins within. Mata Nanaki would always stay at the door waiting for his son, but one night Guru Harkrishan Ji was inflicted with a serious fever at night as there here was an epidemic of smallpox. Guru Ji had been helping and treating children suffering from smallpox, despite the regard to his well being and safety. In critical condition, yet he continued to carry out his responsibilities. He asked for the ceremonial marks of succession, as he

touched them and raised his hand three times and said, "Baba Bakale" meaning that the next Guru is in the town of Bakala. After saying these words, Guru ji passed away on 30th March 1664.

Since Guru Har Krishan Ji had not spelled the name of the next guru this prompted many fraudulent claimants to Guruship. Self-proclaimed gurus established camps to deceive people. Many more came to the small village Bakala to take advantage of the spiritual void . Dhir Mal was the most prominent among them. He was the elder brother of Guru Har Rai Ji and he possessed the first copy of (Guru) Granth Sahib prepared by Guru Arjan Dev ji.

People were misled, deceived, and greatly puzzled. Finally, a devout Sikh - Makhan Shah Lubana - came to Bakala along with 500 gold coins to offer to the Guru. He was a trader and accustomed to sail to far places but once his ship full of merchandise became entangled in a severe storm. His ship began to sink and his efforts were failing . Makhan Shah closed his eyes and prayed with hands folded 'O Guru Nanak, save the ship from sinking. I will offer 500 gold coins as gratitude. Please bring my ship to the shore safely.' His prayer was answered. Storm stopped and his ship landed safely on the shore .

When he learned that the Guru is in Bakala he went there immediately but was shocked to see the many imposters and self-proclaimed gurus. He visited all of them and placed two gold coins in front of each. When none of them mentioned the 500 gold coins that he had offered in his prayer he realized that all were fake. Finally, Makhan Shah met Mata Nanaki. He enquired about her son Tegh Bahadur and was told that he had been meditating for a while in a secluded room. Without wasting his time Makhan Shah rushed to meet him and found him t completely immersed in the evening prayer. He bowed and placed two gold coins in front of him. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji blessed him and asked what happened to the rest of 500 gold coins he had promised. Makhan Shah's heart filled with joy to hear

these words. He ran out and climbed up the roof yelling, "*Guru Ladho Re, Guru Ladho Re* (I have found the Guru, I have found the Guru)". On hearing this, Sikhs abandoned the imposters and bestowed their respect to the true Guru.

In August 1664, Sikh Sangat arrived in Bakala and anointed Tegh Bahadur Ji as the ninth guru of Sikhs. The sangat was led by Diwan Durga Mal. A formal "Tikka ceremony" was performed by Gurditta Ji conferring Guruship on Tegh Bahadur.

Consistent with the practice of his father - Guru Hargobind ji, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji surrounded himself with armed body guards and other marks of royalty. Yet, he himself lived a simple life.

3. Message of Forgiveness

Makhan Shah's discovery terrified the imposter gurus, yet Dhir Mal continued to be jealous. He bribed Sheehan masand to shoot Guru Sahib but Guru Ji escaped the attack. Guru Ji, for he was the true Guru, remained calm, and showed no anger towards Dhir Mal Sheehan and his men ransacked Guru's house and escaped with Guru's property. When Makhan Shah learned about the incident, he gathered some Sikhs and chased Dhir Mal. They managed to recover all that belonged to the Guru. However, Guru Ji instructed Makhan Shah to return everything to Dhir Mal including the Granth Sahib. Guru Ji also forgave the man who had shot him. Sikhs felt that Granth Sahib was not Dhir Mal's personal property and belonged to Guru Ji and Sikhs.

Sikhs were angry with Dhir Mal and his conspirators . Guru Jim advised his Sikhs, "never let anger enter your heart for it is your biggest enemy and the deadliest of poisons An angry person loses sense to distinguish between right and wrong. In anger, one makes the worst mistakes and life becomes infinitely unbearable. Use anger to fight injustice of the world, not to exact revenge, and be kind, merciful and calm whenever possible. He continued, "forgiveness is a great virtue. Never miss an opportunity to forgive. Never think of revenge."

As Guru Ji continued to live in peace, bad people, opportunist continued to harm him. Guru Ji left Bakala for Kiratpur. He was accompanied by his family and Sikhs. As the group reached close to river Beas, Guru Ji saw some Sikhs carrying {Guru} Granth Sahib. Guru Ji told them to return it to Dhir Mal.

4. Maiyan Rabb Rajaiyan

One day, Makhan Shah expressed his most cherished desire to visit Harmandar Sahib. Guru Ji volunteered to accompany his Sikh to the visit and pay his respect to the sacred city as well. However, on his arrival, Guru ji was refused entry. After Guru Har Gobind Ji left Amritsar, Harmandir Sahib had been under the influence and control of Prithi Chand's family, Guru Arjan Dev Ji's elder brother. At this time, Har Ji masand had most of the authoritative power and in-charge. He was Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's rival. Upon Har ji's instructions, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was not allowed to enter the main section of the complex. But Guru ji and Sikhs managed to make way to an area where Thara Sahib is situated now. Guru ji waited there patiently for quite some time but when the doors didn't open, he went away to a nearby village of Wala. Here local sangat received them with respect and listened to his sermons with devotion. A group of women came from Amritsar to ask for forgiveness for the misconduct of Har Ji and other masands. The Guru showered his blessings on them: "*Maiyan Rabb rajaiyan* (Women are favored by God Himself)".

5. Creation of Anandpur Sahib

In 1665, Guru Ji set out on an extensive tour of Punjab, mainly through the districts of Malwa, Majha and Bangar. He crossed through Taran Taran, Khadur Sahib and Goindwal Sahib. All of these towns were connected with Sikh Gurus. Guru Ji temporarily stayed in Lakkhi Jungle, a desolate and sandy track. Presently, Faridkot and Bhatinda comprise those areas. The Baisakhi of 1665 was celebrated in Sabo-ki-Talwandi, presently known as Damdama Sahib. Because of the lack of rain, the arid land made life difficult for the people. To help, Guru Ji himself picked up a shovel. Villagers also started digging with shovels. It took them ten days to dig the tank that'll hold enough water for all the village. On the eleventh day, it rained, and the tank was named Gurusar. This journey took Guru Ji to Dhamdha in Jind. He fell in love with the surroundings and the devotion of people. Guru Ji instructed villagers to build a *dharamshala* to serve the people and returned to Kiratpur.

Makhan Shah had stayed with him up till now. As he asked for permission to leave for Bakala, the Guru Ji blessed him, "You are Guru Nanak's disciple. You will always live in peace. Remember God all the time. Read Guru's word daily and obtain comfort from it." Makhan Shah bowed and left for Bakala.

On 13th of May 1665, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji went to Bilaspur, farther in the hills. The Dowager Rani Champa of Bilaspur offered the Guru Ji a piece of land in her state as gift. However, Guru Ji bought it for 500 rupees (Indian Money). Here, Guru Ji began the construction of a town. Gurditta Randhawa, grandson of Bhai Buddha Ji laid the foundation. As construction progressed, people moved in to live and to work. The new town was called Chakk Nanaki after Guru Ji's mother. Later, the city was renamed Anandpur - the City of Bliss. The creation of Khalsa took place here. Guru Ji didn't stay for

long in Anandpur or Kiratpur. Most of the construction took place in his absence.

6. Solar Eclipse & birth of Gobind Rai

The *sangat* of Punjab didn't want Guru Ji to leave but the Guru Ji advised them, " Remain here and be happy in God's Will. I'm compelled to visit the *sangat* in distant places." Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji set out for a long journey to spread *the* word of Guru Nanak and meet with Sikhs in far off places.

Guru's first stop was not too far from Chakk-Nanaki. He instructed that service to humanity is the highest form of worship. He advised the people to do *sangat* seva. He marched through Ropar and Banur. Further south, he reached a site near the modern city of Patiala.

He reached Kurukshetra near the time of a Solar eclipse. As many were waiting in the edges of the river, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji took the occasion to teach an important lesson. Some Brahmins approached Guru Ji and requested him to take a bath in the river to purify himself of all sins. Guru Ji smiled and told them that one can only purify body by washing with water. He added that to purify polluted mind one must do good deeds and meditate on God. He explained the message of Guru Nanak to dispel superstition and ritualistic behavior.

On his journey to further east he passed through Etawah, Kanpur, and Allahabad, Prayag, Kashi and a few other places of Hindu pilgrimage.

In 1666, Guru Ji continued his Journey through Gaya and reached Patna. A Sikh offered a house for Guru Ji and the family. He only stayed there for a month but people in large numbers came every day to listen. Guru Ji soon learned that Aurangzeb was coercing Guru's *masands* to collect Sikh offerings for personal gain and also drove out prominent Sikhs from their

homes. As Guru Ji knew of the escalation ahead, he left Mata Nanaki Ji and Mata Gujari Ji in the care of Bhai Jaita Halwai and his brother-in-law, Kirpal Chand.

At this time his wife - Mata Gujari, was expecting a baby. She and Mata Nanaki were inconsolable at his departure, but Guru Ji comforted them by advising them to trust on the words of Guru Nanak. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji left for Anandpur Sahib. En route, Guru Ji went through Monghyr, Bari, Dacca and Assam. While in Monghyr he learned of the birth of his son Gobind Rai. Gobind Rai was born on 22nd December 1666 at Patna, who later became the tenth guru of the Sikhs,(Guru Gobind Singh Ji). The entire *sangat* came for a glimpse of the newborn prince.

As Guru Tegh Bahadur was leaving Dacca, one of his devotee requested him to stay. She asked him to grant her a glimpse of him everyday for it would be a blessing for her old eyesight and poor vision. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji granted her wish by getting his portrait made. The Guru himself gave it the finishing touches with his own hand. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji gave the picture to the old lady and took his leave. He continued his journey toward Anandpur. As he was travelling he blessed countless people. He continued to tell them to be vigilant and not fear anything. They should rather give up their life but not their faith. He mediated a long outstanding dispute between Raja Ram Singh and Ahom tribes and all the tribesmen became Guru Ji's followers. From Assam, Guru Ji returned to Anandpur Sahib. On reaching he learned about the new atrocities of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb on Hindus. He had denied them basic amenities and destroyed temples to stop idol worshiping and used inhumane methods to convert them to Islam.

In 1672, Guru Ji went back to Patna and saw his son Gobind Rai for the first time. He stayed there for a short while and returned to Anandpur Sahib. While leaving, he instructed the family to return to Punjab. He reached Anandpur in two and a half months as his family and child joined him in three

months in March 1672. Gobind Rai learned many languages and warfare techniques at Anandpur Sahib.

7. Freedom of Right to Worship

Aurangzeb received reports of Guru ji's support toward Hindus. He ordered Mughal chiefs to convert Hindus by any means necessary, even with torture. Sher Khan, one of the mughal chiefs, converted a temple into a mosque and slaughtered a cow inside it. Historical documents reveal few Sikh Gurdwaras were demolished and Hindu government employees were replaced with Muslims. Moreover, Aurangzeb expelled many missionaries from main cities. Forceful mass conversion was the policy of the Mughal king as he wanted India to be an Islamic State.

The population of Kashmir mainly comprised of Hindus, who belonged to the Brahmin caste. Kashmiri Brahmins were well educated and respected by Hindus. Aurangzeb thought if he can convert revered Kashmiri Brahmins to Islam, it would be easier to convert millions of Hindus. He ordered governor of Kashmir - Sher Afgan Khan - to make Kashmir a Muslim province. Khan told Hindus to choose between Islam and death. Those refusing to accept Islam were publicly beheaded.

In May 1675, threatened with conversion or death, few highly respected Pandits sought help from Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The delegation of Kashmiri pundits, headed by Pandit Kirpa Ram Dutt, reached Anandpur Sahib and met with Guru Ji. They expressed their fear and sought his complete protection and guidance. Guru ji decided to resist forceful conversion by peaceful means. After long discussions with prominent Sikhs, Guru ji decided to sacrifice his life for "Righteousness" and "Freedom of Religion". On advice of Guru ji, Kashmiri Pandits informed Aurangzeb that if he could convert Guru ji,

they would gladly accept Islam. The Kashmiri Pandits knew that Aurangzeb would show no mercy and would force Guru Ji to choose martyrdom.

8. Martyrdom

On July 8th, 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji assembled the *sangat*. He informed Diwan Durga Mall that Gobind Rai was the next Guru and asked for the the customary emblems of successions. The Guru dressed his son in ceremonial apparels and weapons and seated him in his own place. Diwan laid the articles in front of Gobind Rai and bowed in obeisance. Baba Gurditta, of Baba Buddha's family, marked the *tilak* on Gobind Rai's forehead. Thus, Gobind Rai became the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Teg Bahadur instructed the *sangat* to acknowledge Gobind Rai as their Guru as he announced his departure from Anandpur Sahib to Delhi.

As Guru Tegh Bahadur traveled to Anandpur, he prayed to *Akal Purakh* and took leave of his family and his devoted Sikhs. He was accompanied by Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das and Bhai Dayal Das besides other Sikhs. Guru Ji visited Kartarpur, Faizabad, Samana, Kaithal, Lakhan Majra, Rohtak and finally reached Agra. People in these places the saw the Guru ji for the last time. His message was, "*Bhae Kahu ko dat neh, neh bhae manat aan,*" (Have No Fear, Impose No Fear).

He gave them courage to face atrocities of Aurangzeb but not give up faith. As Aurangzeb learned of Guru's arrival, he ordered his immediate arrest and chained him in prison. He was arrested along with his three disciples. Guru was given three choices:

1. *Convert to Islam*
2. *Show some miracle*
3. *Be prepared to die.*

Guru replied that everyone should be free to practice his/her religion and no one should be converted by force, and showing miracles was an act of defiance of God's will. To live or to die is in the hands of God. He was not afraid to die. His three companions - Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das and Bhai Dayal Das - were tortured and brutally killed in front of Guru ji. Aurangzeb made him witness the execution of his three beloved Sikhs, hoping he might change his mind. All three left this world with God on their lips and their eyes fixed on their Guru. They gave up their lives for their faith. Guru ji - calm, yet firm, was led to an open place called Chandni Chowk in Delhi. He was publicly beheaded on November 11th, 1675. The executioner was Jalaluddin from Samana. No one was allowed to take Guru ji's head or the body. Guards were posted to keep an eye on the head and the body. At this spot in Delhi now stands a Gurdwara called Sis Ganj Sahib.

Lakhi Shah, a contractor, passed by from Red Fort with his carts loaded with lime and clay. In the shadow of dust created by carts, Lakhi Shah managed to place Guru ji's body on a cart and ,rushed to his village (Rakab Ganj). He placed the body in his hut and set his entire hut on fire to cremate the body . Gurdwara Rakab Ganj now stands at this spot.

Bhai Jaita procured the Guru's head at night, wrapped it in his blanket and rushed towards Anandpur Sahib. He reached Guru Gobind Singh Ji and placed his father's head before him. Guru embraced him and bestowed the title of "*Rangretta guru Ka Beta.*" The head was cremated with full honor and ceremonies by Guru Gobind Singh Ji at Anandpur Sahib where there is a gurdwara, also named Sis Ganj Sahib.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was a warrior, a father, , a husband with social commitment, a poet and a preacher with a great understanding and vision. Guru ji composed Gurbani in fifteen Raagas. He also composed 57

salokas. His compositions were included in (Guru) Granth Sahib by the 10th master, Guru Gobind Singh ji.

Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji 'Sristh di chadar' sacrificed his life for the cause of Dharma, truth and the betterment of humanity His martyrdom inspired all to lay their lives for moral values and noble causes.

9. Highlights of Guru Teg Bahadur j **{1621 - 1675}**

Born on: April 1, 1621

Born at: Guru ke mahal Amritsar Sahib

- **Father -- Guru Hargobind Ji**
- **Mother -- Mata Nanaki Ji**
- **Wife -- Mata Gujari Ji**
- **Children -- Guru Gobind Singh Ji**

Accession to Gurgaddi -- August,1664

Joti Jot -- November 11, 1675, Delhi

Brothers

- **Baba Gurditta Ji**
- **Baba Suraj Mal Ji**
- **Baba Ani Rai Ji**
- **Baba Atal Rai Ji**

Sister : Bibi Veero Ji

Bani

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji contributed many hymns to the Guru Granth Sahib including the *Shaloka* or couplets. His works include 116 shabads in 15 ragas,

apart from 57 *shalokas*, that were included in Guru Granth Sahib by the tenth Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

His Message

One who is not perturbed by misfortune, who is beyond comfort, attachment and fear, who considers gold and dust alike. Who is neither swayed by slander or praise, and shuns greed, attachments and arrogance. Who is indifferent to ecstasy and tragedy, is not affected by honors or humiliations. Who renounces expectations, greed, and is neither attached to the worldliness, nor lets senses and anger affect him. In such a person resides God. That being, blessed by Guru's grace, understands this way. O Nanak, (S)he merges with the creator, like water with water— Ninth Nanak, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Rag Sorath, Ang 633

Guru ji symbolised the triumph of good over evil. His martyrdom, unique in the history of mankind, inspired many to lay down their lives for noble cause and moral values. He spread the message of freedom, courage and compassion:” Fear not and frighten not.”

Special Contributions

- **He built the city Chakk Nanaki that his son would enlarge and rename Anandpur Sahib**
- **He travelled extensively throughout India.**
- **He sacrificed his own life, facing down Emperor Aurangzeb on behalf of the Kashmiri Hindus, ending Aurangzeb's threat to either convert to Islam or be executed.**
- **Guru Tegh Bahadur spoke out amid this persecution. He refused to convert to Islam and in 1675, he was beheaded in Delhi. The site of his execution was later turned into an important Gurdwara Sis Ganj in Delhi.**
- **Gave gurgaddi to his son Gobind Singh Ji in 1675 to become the tenth jot of Guru Nanak.**

- **He taught liberation from attachment, fear and dependence. Strength should be gained through truth, worship, sacrifice and knowledge.**
- **He called life a priceless gift of God. But did not applaud the hermetic life rather achieve union with Him by staying in His Naam and performing your duty.**

Some Amazing Facts:

Sikh Guru's history in India runs from birth of Guru Nanak dev Ji in 1469 to 1708 when tenth Guru Gobind Singh Ji left for his heavenly abode. The world was still being discovered.

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| 1492 | Christopher Columbus with his crew set sail in his three famous ships from Spain to discover sea route to India. But landed not in Asia as he assumed but on one of the Bahaman island. |
| 1498 | Vasco da Gama, a portuguese found the sea route to India. |
| 1500 | In England, Henry VIII became the king. |
| 1598 | Queen Elizabeth I, mother of King James VI ascended the throne of England. |
| 1607 | First British colony was founded in Virginia, USA. |
| 1620 | Pilgrims arrived in America. |
| 1642 | The famous English civil war was fought. (up to 1651). |
| 1654 | The first Jewish immigrants arrived in America and settled in new Amsterdam. |
| 1664 | English colonists took control of settlement in new Amsterdam and renamed it New York. |

Amazing!!

If all these events are true and documented in the history then every event that took place during Sikh period in India is a part of the Modern Indian History. This should inspire one to read books and other documents written by Sikh and other world renowned historians to know about Gurus and Sikh heritage.
